



REQUEST FOR SUBMISSIONS
Policy, Politics, & Prevention:
Working Towards Improving Health Outcomes
SCDHEC Region and Central Office Initiatives 2006/2007

The SCDHEC Office of Public Health Education (OPHE) sponsored its statewide conference on October 16, 2007 at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center (2100 Bush River Road, Columbia, SC). This conference attracted a diverse group of Health Education and Health Promotion Professionals working in the public and private sectors. The conference was offered as a pre-conference event with the SC HIV/STD Conference (October 17-19, 2007) and as a special event to observe National Health Education Week.

This interactive conference provided practical strategies to influence policy and environmental changes needed to improve population-based health. Policy interventions, as an effective tool for health promotion and disease prevention, have increased in use and importance during this decade. Skills for facilitating policy-based interventions are critical as we work towards changing norms in communities.

The National Directors of Health Promotion and Education (DHPE) have developed several publications and online resources on health policy and environmental change. One recent publication, *Specialized Competencies for the Public Health Workforce* identifies competencies needed to change policies, systems, and built environments. You can access the entire toolkit at www.dhpe.org/PolicyTools.htm.

Proceedings from this conference included a compilation of policy and/or environmental change initiatives from across the state. Local and statewide health education/promotion efforts were highlighted.